Claims

[c1] 1. An apparatus for efficiently running an execution image containing instructions for running a computer program, comprising:a non-volatile memory configured to store a compressed version of said execution image;a volatile memory configured to execute said execution image; anda computing unit configured to transfer and decompress said compressed version of said execution image from said non-volatile memory to said volatile memory where said execution image in non-compressed form can be executed efficiently.

[c2] 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile memory is a FlashROM.

[c3] 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said volatile memory is a DRAM.

[c4] 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said execution image has a header associated therewith and said computing unit executes said execution image directly in said non-volatile memory if so indicated by the header.

[c5] 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein decompression code for carrying out decompression is associated with said execution image and stored therewith.

[c6] 6. A method for efficiently running an execution image containing instructions for running a computer program on a set-top box, comprising the steps of:storing a compressed version of said execution image in a non-volatile memory;decompressing said compressed version of said execution image to obtain said execution image in non-compressed form; andexecuting said execution image in said volatile memory whereby said execution image can thus be stored in a small size in said non-volatile memory while also being executable at a faster execution speed in said volatile memory.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said non-volatile memory is a FlashROM.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said volatile memory is a DRAM.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of: examining a header associated with said execution image; and executing said execution image directly in said non-volatile memory if so indicated by said header.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 6, wherein decompression code for carrying out said decompressing step is associated with said execution image and stored therewith.